GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3902
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Biomass Burning
Chandrappa Shri B.N.

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the biomass burning in some State causing massive air-pollution in the country, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the demand for power and exhaustible fossil fuels have increased the difficulties in meeting even minimum energy needs in many areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether the Government is taking any steps to utilize agricultural residues for twin benefits of pollution abatement and increasing the production of biogas in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY & MINES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)
(a): As per information received from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEF&CC),burning of agricultural waste in open fields and other biomass may lead to increased level of air pollution in the local and adjoining areas, particularly during adverse meteorological conditions like low temperature, poor wind speed and low mixing height. A report of IIT, Kanpur suggests that crop residue burning and other biomass may be transported to the other places from the sources in upwind.
(b): As per the information obtained from Ministry of Power, the power supply position in the country is comfortable with all India energy shortage of 0.7 % only during the period April-October 2016.
(c): Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has finalized the National Policy for Management of Crop Residues in 2014. The Policy envisages adoption of technical measures including diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and training and extending central financial assistance for various interventions proposed by States under the ongoing Schemes/Programmes/Missions of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
Implementation of 'The National Policy for Management of Crop Residue, 2014' of Ministry of Agriculture by NCR States subsidizing farmers @ 50% of the cost of agriculture machineries such as Gyrorake, Baler, Chopper Shredder, Rotavator, Happy Seeder, Zero Till Drill etc. during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 in Punjab; issuing Notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 through State Governments from prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw; issuing directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by CPCB to the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees for abatement of air pollution and improvement of ambient air quality including directions for ensuring strict enforcement of ban on burning of agricultural waste, crop residue and biomass; conducting regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with State Governments; Setting up of bio-mass power plants through State Governments. Government has taken several measures to control the stubble burning which, inter alia, include State/UT Governments requesting to issue advisory for curbing stubble burning in northern States of India; organising educative workshops.
Biogas plants of about 250kW capacity based on agricultural waste /residues are eligible for subsidy under the programme on energy from urban, industrial and agricultural waste/ residues.
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